

## WHAT KIND OF MATHEMATICIAN WAS SHE?

Jean Taylor majored in chemistry and graduated phi beta kappa with her undergrad degree. However, through the influence of friends and a few mathematical courses, she changed her major to mathematics for her PhD. Geometry was a major part of her studies such as focusing her dissertation on the topic of "Regularity of the Singular Set of Two-Dimensional Area-Minimizing Flat Chains Modulo 3 in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ." Jean Taylor's main work was that of proving Plateau's problem. Taylor proved that a compound soap bubble spanning a wire frame consists of flat surfaces smoothly joined together. She also confirmed that soap bubble surfaces meet in only two ways: either exactly three surfaces meet along a smooth curve of 120 degrees or six surfaces meet at a vertex.